

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) ~~Connection~~ A connection architecture for xDSL networks with a metal port, wherein ~~[[the]] a~~ voice signal ~~[[2]]~~ is obtained from ~~[[the]] a~~ switching exchange ~~[[1]]~~, reaches ~~[[the]] a~~ horizontal terminal block ~~[[13]]~~, continues to ~~[[the]] a~~ terminal of an intermediate distributor ~~[[7]]~~ and from there to ~~[[the]] an~~ assembly formed by ~~[[the]] a~~ filter and/or a ~~[[or]]~~ splitter ~~[[4]]~~ and ~~[[the]] a~~ DSLAM ~~[[3]]~~, which is responsible for supplying the configured to supply a high-speed digital signal xDSL ~~[[5]]~~ from a network ~~[[9]]~~, there being emitted from ~~[[this]] the~~ assembly a combined voice and data signal ~~[[6]]~~ which reaches the intermediate distributor ~~[[7]]~~, and is transmitted ~~one~~ ~~more~~ to a vertical terminal block ~~[[14]]~~ and a subsequent separation filter ~~[[17]]~~, thus reaching ~~[[the]] a~~ user either on ~~[[the]] a~~ telephone ~~[[11]]~~ or on ~~[[the]] a~~ computer ~~[[12]]~~, characterised in that wherein the intermediate distributor ~~[[7]]~~ or the vertical terminal block ~~[[14]]~~ has a connection element which has cut-off and test contacts, and the metal port block is disposed on the connection element itself of the intermediate distributor ~~[[7]]~~ or on the vertical terminal block ~~[[14]]~~, thus making it possible to obtain the metal port thereby obtaining a signal from the metal port which is subsequently conveyed to ~~[[the]] a~~ test rack ~~[[10]]~~, without needing to disconnect or reconnect any bridge or cable of this an electrical conductor of the architecture.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Terminal block for use in the~~ A connection architecture according to claim 1, characterised in that it makes it possible to obtain further comprising a terminal block that comprises the metal port by being and is disposed on the terminal block of the intermediate distributor, (7), such that the said terminal or block (16) has on its base the terminal block including a set of pairs of contacts on a base thereof (16.1), which are disposed corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~ cavities which are provided in the terminal block of the intermediate

distributor, ~~corresponding~~ which correspond to ~~[[the]]~~ contacts which transmit the combined voice signal and high-speed signal xDSL.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Terminal block~~ A connection architecture according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the pairs of contacts (16.1) ~~of the terminal or port block (16)~~ are disposed corresponding to the cavities corresponding to the contacts for the voice signal which exist on the terminal blocks of the intermediate distributor ~~[[the]]~~ (7).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Terminal block~~ A connection architecture according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it makes it possible to obtain further comprising a terminal block that comprises the metal port by, the metal port of the terminal block being disposed on the vertical terminal block [[the]] (14)], such that the said terminal or block (16) terminal block has on its a base thereof a set of pairs of contacts (16.1) which are disposed corresponding to ~~[[the]] cavities which exist in the terminal block of the vertical distributor (14) corresponding vertical terminal block, which correspond~~ to ~~[[the]]~~ contacts of the combined signal.~~

5 (Currently Amended) ~~Terminal block~~ A connection architecture according claim 1, ~~to any preceding claim, characterised in that it has the means necessary comprising a connector configured to be connected to [[the]] one or more adjacent terminal blocks by means of a bus.~~

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Connection~~ A connection architecture according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the connecting block (16) wherein the metal port, through which the metallic access to the intermediate distribution frame (7) distributor or the vertical distribution frame (14) terminal block is made, is materialized in~~ comprises a plurality of boards (16'), containing ~~their corresponding electrical components such as relays and associated electronics, each one of these the boards having contact pins or plugs on their a lower edge of the board [[the]] (19)], to be housed in [[the]] cavities for [[the]] a patch and test or~~

protection area of the ~~distribution frame (7-14)-strip~~ intermediate distributor or of the vertical terminal block.

8. (Currently amended) ~~Connection~~ A connection architecture according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that said wherein the boards (16') also have~~ comprise an array having connectors ~~[[ (20) ]]~~ for interconnection thereof and/or for connection to ~~[[ the ]]~~ at least one cartridge ~~[[ (16) ]]~~ in ~~their~~ the array.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Connection~~ A connection architecture according to claim 8, ~~which also has wherein the connectors (17) to that~~ interconnect the cartridges in array, with ~~the aid of~~ include buses ~~[[ (18) ]]~~.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Connection~~ A connection architecture according to ~~any of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, ~~characterized in that said wherein the terminal block includes a housing, and the boards [[ (16') ]]~~ are configured as cartridges ~~optionally~~ having lids, which, when coupled with the housing, coupling with and uncoupling from the housing (16) of the ~~eartridge, configure~~ provide a closed outer surface which protects its inner electrical components thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) Connection architecture according to claim 7 ~~any of claims 7 to 10, characterized in that said wherein the~~ boards are laminated, and/or incorporate ~~their~~ the electrical components on one or both sides, and/or are protected within a housing ~~defined by the cartridge, optionally having an upper or folding lid~~.

12. (New) A terminal block for use in the connection architecture according to claim 1, wherein the terminal block comprises the metal port and is disposed on the terminal of the intermediate distributor, the terminal block including a set of pairs of contacts on a base thereof, which are disposed corresponding to cavities which are provided in the terminal of the intermediate distributor, which correspond to contacts which transmit the combined voice signal and high-speed signal xDSL.

13. (New) A terminal block according to claim 12, wherein the pairs of contacts are disposed corresponding to the cavities corresponding to the contacts for the voice signal which exist on the terminal of the intermediate distributor.

14. (New) A terminal block according to claim 1, wherein the terminal block comprises the metal port, the metal port of the terminal block being disposed on the vertical terminal block, such that the terminal block has on a base thereof a set of pairs of contacts which are disposed corresponding to cavities in the vertical terminal block, which correspond to contacts of the combined signal.

15. (New) A terminal block according claim 1, comprising a connector configured to be connected to the one or more adjacent terminal blocks by a bus.

16. (New) A connection architecture according to claim 11, wherein the cartridge comprises an upper or folding lid.

17. (New) A connection architecture for a xDSL network, the architecture comprising:

a switching exchange electrically connected to a terminal of an intermediate distributor via a horizontal terminal block, the switching exchange configured to provide a voice signal to a filter and/or splitter and a DSLAM, wherein the DSLAM is configured to receive an xDSL signal from a network and the filter and/or splitter is or are configured to provide a combined voice and data signal to the intermediate distributor terminal;

a vertical terminal block configured to receive the combined voice and data signal from the intermediate distributor and to transmit the combined signal to a separation filter, the separation filter being configured to output a voice signal and a data signal wherein the intermediate distributor comprises a connection element that includes cut-off and test contacts; and

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a metal port on the connection element, wherein the intermediate distributor is configured so that a signal can be obtained from the metal port and conveyed to a test rack without disconnecting the filter and/or splitter.